

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

By Green

A RESOLUTION to urge the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to locate a Veterans Affairs hospital in Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is especially proud to be the home of over 500,000 veterans of the United States Armed Forces, who valiantly answered the call to serve their nation; and

WHEREAS, a number of these courageous men and women are suffering because East Tennessee's largest city lacks a Veterans Affairs medical hospital to serve its brave veterans; and

WHEREAS, because of Knox County's location, the placement of a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital in Knoxville would serve the more than 60,000 veterans who reside in the area; and

WHEREAS, presently, veterans living in East Tennessee must travel 150 miles or more to the Alvin C. York VA facility in Murfreesboro or 112 miles or more to the Mountain Home VA facility in Bristol for medical treatment; this extensive travel creates a physical hardship and burden for these veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Knoxville VA hospital would reduce the bureaucratic paperwork and ever-increasing costs of per diem to veterans for their travel to and from Murfreesboro or Mountain Home in Bristol, as Knoxville area veterans would be treated in their community, close to their families and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving the medical needs of our East Tennessee veterans, the location of a VA medical facility in Knoxville would create new jobs in the area; and

WHEREAS, our veterans have sacrificed a great deal in defending and protecting our nation, and the State of Tennessee and the federal government should work together to adequately provide for the medical needs of these valiant citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly strongly urges and encourages the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to locate a Veterans Affairs hospital in Knoxville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly urges each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation to use the full measure of his or her power and influence to facilitate the location of a VA hospital in Knoxville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.